## REMARKS

The Office Action of March 22, 2010 has been carefully considered. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 1 is in this application.

The previously presented claim was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as indefinite. Applicant has amended the claim to obviate the Examiner's rejection. Support for the amendment if found throughout the specification and in particular on page 7, lines 9-12 and page 8, lines 25-28. No new matter has been added.

The previously presented claim was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,368,015 to Wilk. Applicant submits that the teaching of this reference does not teach or suggest the invention defined by the present claim.

Wilk discloses a laparoscopic instrument assembly including an elongate rigid member which is bifurcated at a distal end into a pair of partially flexible prongs or branches 332a and 332b (Col 10, lines 48-53). Rigid member 330 is inserted through trocar sleeve 342 which has been inserted through a skin surface. Prongs 332a and 332b are maintained in parallel configuration by the trocar sleeve. Upon emergence of the prongs from the tocar sleeve the prongs can be spread with actuator springs 346a and 346b (Col. 11, lines 11-14) The distance between the tips of the prongs can be decreased by dragging the prongs back into the trocar sleeve. Alternatively, an active actuator such as a tension cable assembly can be used to spread apart the prongs.

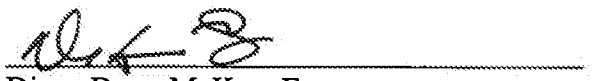
In contrast to the invention defined by the present claims, Wilk does not teach or suggest a flexible tube unit including a pair of left and right flexible tubes connected to respective left and right supporting rods. Further, Wilk does not teach or suggest that the left and right flexible tubes are driven within a predetermined angle range via an actuator according to electric signals generated from a manipulator. Rather, Wilk teaches a bifurcated rigid support member in which prongs at each end are adjusted by a spring actuator after extending from a trocar sleeve or a tension cable. The Wilk teachings have the shortcoming that the angle cannot be adjusted with the same precision as the adjustment of the present invention using an actuator controlled by electric signals. In addition, the partially flexible prongs of Wilk in combination with the spring actuator or cable actuator do not provide adjustment to take images from all directions during

laparoscopic surgery as defined by the present claims. Accordingly, the present invention is not obvious in view of Wilk.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and request that all claims be allowed. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should he believe that this would expedite prosecution of this application. It is believed that no fee is required. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2165.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 22, 2010



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